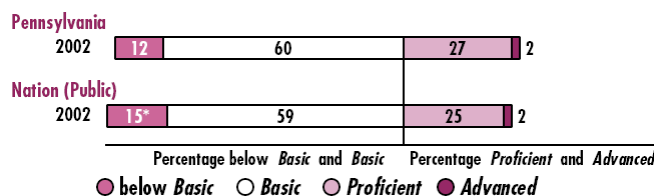


The writing assessment of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) measures narrative, informative, and persuasive writing—three purposes identified in the NAEP framework. The NAEP writing scale ranges from 0 to 300.

Overall Writing Results for Pennsylvania

- The average scale score for fourth-grade students in Pennsylvania was 156.
- Pennsylvania's average score (156) was higher¹ than that of the nation's public schools (153).
- Students' average scale scores in Pennsylvania were higher than those in 26 jurisdictions², not significantly different from those in 16 jurisdictions, and lower than those in 5 jurisdictions.
- The percentage of students who performed at or above the NAEP *Proficient* level was 29 percent. The percentage of students who performed at or above the *Basic* level was 88 percent.

Student Percentage at Each Achievement Level



Performance of NAEP Reporting Groups in Pennsylvania

Reporting groups	Percentage of students	Average Score	Percentage of students at			
			Below <i>Basic</i>	<i>Basic</i>	<i>Proficient</i>	<i>Advanced</i>
Male	51	148 ↑	16 ↓	64	19	1
Female	49	164	7 ↓	56	34	3
White	77	161	8 ↓	58	31	2
Black	17	135	25	66	9 ↓	#
Hispanic	4	136	28	63	8 ↓	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	---	---	---	---	---
American Indian/Alaska Native	#	---	---	---	---	---
Free/reduced-priced school lunch						
Eligible	34	137	22	67	10 ↓	#
Not eligible	63	166	6 ↓	56	36	3
Information not available	3	162	7	60	29	4

Average Score Gaps Between Selected Groups

- Female students in Pennsylvania had an average score that was higher than that of male students (16 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (18 points).
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Black students (26 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (20 points).
- White students had an average score that was higher than that of Hispanic students (25 points). This performance gap was not significantly different from that of the Nation (19 points).
- Students who were not eligible for free/reduced-price school lunch had an average score that was higher than that of students who were eligible (28 points). This performance gap was wider than that of the Nation (22 points).

Writing Scale Scores at Selected Percentiles

	Scale Score Distribution		
	25 th Percentile	50 th Percentile	75 th Percentile
Pennsylvania	132 ↑	156	180
Nation (Public)	128	153	178

An examination of scores at different percentiles on the 0-300 NAEP writing scale at each grade indicates how well students at lower, middle, and higher levels of the distribution performed. For example, the data above shows that 75 percent of students in public schools nationally scored below 178, while 75 percent of students in Pennsylvania scored below 180.

Percentage rounds to zero.

--- Reporting standards not met; sample size insufficient to permit a reliable estimate.

* Significantly different from Pennsylvania.

↑ Significantly higher than, ↓ lower than appropriate subgroup in the nation (public).

¹ Comparisons (higher/lower/not different) are based on statistical tests. The .05 level was used for testing statistical significance.

² "Jurisdictions" includes participating states and other jurisdictions (such as Guam or the District of Columbia).

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Score gaps are calculated based on differences between unrounded average scale scores.

Visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/> for additional results and detailed information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2002 Writing Assessment.